

All dressed up for Windsor re-opening



To celebrate the re-opening of MDL's 177-berth Windsor Marina on the River Thames, an official opening party took place at Windsor Yacht Club in the marina on 3 June. As part of the opening celebrations, 32 dressed boats sailed past the marina, travelling up to Bray and returning to enter their berths at Windsor. It was the first time that this kind of event had taken place and was blessed with excellent weather with Commodore Sheila Masters cutting the ribbon to the

skirl of the pipes as the boats entered the marina.

The re-opening follows a reconfiguration carried out by Walcon Marine Ltd, which makes Windsor one of the most modern marinas on the Thames. Over 85% of the area has been improved in a huge logistical task, which started in March this year. Existing pontoons were demolished and 63 piles extracted before Walcon was able to install new equipment to its standard 'System 21' specification. The work, which was carried out in two phases to allow the marina to remain operational, involved driving 34 new piles and installing 253 linear metres of pontoons, including 56 new finger piers ranging in size from 6-12 m. 'E' pontoon can now accommodate boats up to 42 ft in length, which will enable the marina to cater for the bigger boats that are now more prevalent on the Thames.

The marina has also had entirely new electrical systems installed by Sureline Electrical Modules Ltd. These include 13 SEM5 high level lighting and power units and double that number of SEM4 low level units, all fitted with 16 amp sockets. In addition, Sureline installed 52 SEM1 remote IP44 16 amp sockets and supplied water posts equipped for the first time with the company's own design of long-lasting, stainless steel hose reels.

"Our berth holders have been incredibly supportive and helpful throughout the project, as they know that it will make a great deal of difference," explained Marina Manager Mike Gates. "This development work has transformed Windsor Marina into one of the most up-to-date marinas on the Thames," he added.

New owner for Bellingham Marine

NASDAQ-listed Ambassadors International Inc is the new owner of Bellingham Marine Industries through its acquisition of Nishida Tekko America Corp, which owns 100% of Bellingham Marine. According to Brian Schaeffen, Ambassadors' Chief Financial Officer, the company became interested in buying Bellingham Marine in order to expand its Marine Division.

Announcing his pleasure at the acquisition, Joe Ueberroth, President and CEO of Ambassadors, said: "Its team continues to develop and deliver proven products to meet the changing needs of the marina world. We believe that it is very well run by an experienced management team and look forward to building upon this success".

In a comment to *Euromarina Review*, Matthew Hardy, General Manager of Bellingham Marine Europe Ltd, added: "The change is seen as very positive for our operations here in Europe and will place us in an even stronger competitive position".



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